

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00594 021828Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6125

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 594

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR ASAD ON RABIN'S VISIT

REF: STATE 24973

1. ON RECEIPT REFTEL THIS MORNING, CONTACTED PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH ASAD. A FEW HOURS LATER, PRESIDENT SENT WORD THAT HIS SCHEDULE WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO RECEIVE ME TODAY. (KHADDAM RETURNED DAMASCUS THIS AFTERNOON FROM BEIRUT.) HE ASKED THAT I MEET WITH HIS POLITICAL ADVISOR, DAOUDI, AT 1600Z.

2. HAVE JUST CONVEYED ORAL MESSAGE TO DAOUDI WHO PROMISED RELAY IT TO ASAD SOONEST.

3. DAOUDI COMMENTED, AFTER HEARING MESSAGE, THAT IT SOUNDED TO HIM AS IF ISRAELIS WERE STILL GETTING EVERYTHING THEY WANTED FROM US. PREDICTED THAT UNTIL THE US CUT BACK ON ITS GENEROSITY TO ISRAEL IN THE DIPLOMATIC, FINANCIAL, AND MILITARY FIELDS, WE WOULD CONTINUE TO FIND THE ISRAELIS INFLEXIBLE.

4. SAID THAT I HOPED HE HAD BEEN READING THE AMERICAN PRESS COMMENTARIES I HAD BEEN SENDING THE PRESIDENCY DURING AND AFTER SC DEBATE. A MAN WITH HIS LONG FAMILIARITY WITH AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD SURELY RECOGNIZE THE CHANGES UNDERWAY IN OUR
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DOMESTIC OPINION WHICH THE PRESS WAS REFLECTING.

HE GRUDGINGLY ACKNOWLEDGED A CHANGE IN CLIMATE. I SAID THIS WAS WHAT SECRETARY HAD BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO DEVELOP SO WE WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE US PUBLIC, WHEN THE TIME CAME, FOR THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

5. STATE 25064 WAS RECEIVED AFTER MY RETURN FROM PRESIDENCY. I DID NOT MAKE POINT PROPOSED DAMASCUS 569. MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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